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1. Oct. 1957.

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I received Your very kind letter from prof. Hoffmann-Ostenhof yet in Vienna just on the day starting to the US. First of all I will thank You for Your kindness in sending so quickly answer and beg Your pardon for being so late with the present letter. The cause of it was that for the whole time since the day I received Your letter we had been either in camps or on way and only since this week monday did our things become somewhat sure.

If You permit I shall in short write You the complete story of our matters. After we had to refuge from Hungary we decided to go to the US, because we knew that there we shall find our fields of interest: biochemistry, genetics, microbiology in the highest level in the whole world and so we shall have the best possibilities to work and study further in some place convenient with respect to our training and interest. So we were very glad in receiving Your letter, I - and my friend and colleague P. Lengyel too - are very much interested in the work and program You mentioned to go on in Your laboratory. I may say: it coincides just with our recent interest: although - according to our training we are rather biochemists than geneticists, it is just the field we found most exciting: problems which have equivalent biochemical and genetical aspects. So we were very glad to hear, that I - and perhaps, my colleague too - would have the encouraging possibility to work under Your leading in Your laboratory. It was very encouraging all the more as we are prof. Györfi's institut did very well know the work of Your Institute and wanted to go in many aspects on similar ways in our research.

After arriving to Camp Kilmer and then to New York we had no ~~possibility~~ to come in contact with You at once and in the other hand we got very rapidly a support from the Office of the National Academy of Sciences.

Here Dr. Csapó from Rockefeller Institut, working temporarily in the National Academy of Sciences was extraordinarily kind to us, helped to come in contact with the Rockefeller Foundation and with Dr. G.B. Brown and prof. Ochiai. I received by kindness of Dr. Brown a visiting research assistantship (4160\$) in Sloan-Kettering Institut, my colleague found similar offers in New York University.

For it was extraordinarily important to receive jobs as soon as possible since we are not single men but have family - I & wife and my colleague 4 persons together, - and we have to base a new existence here starting from the nothing. Besides it happened unfortunately, that my friend's mother must be rapidly operated in New York.

So it seems that we shall settle in New York for at least one year. My ask to You is only to permit me and my friend too to remain in contact with You and somewhat later - if it is not unpleasant for You - to have the opportunity to visiting Your Institut.

You were so kind to offer the possibility to write to prof. Györgyffy. Although it seems not to be necessary from Your original point of view nevertheless I should like to ask You to mail the letter because of the following reasons:

for me such a reference would be necessary to make clear my qualifications. It might be dangerous to prof. Györgyffy if I myself should write to him but Your letter would not be harmful to him of whom it is well known to have many a scientific and correspondent connections with western Institutes and personalities. Please ask him in the same letter, whether I might write letters in the future to his address or not. I am afraid that he may be in need of some matters and I hope to find a way for sending him some matter to Hungary.

As to the Serratio effects, as I recollect, prof. Györgyffy did not and wanted also not to publish anything before the Symposium in London this year. Here is again a question: what is Your opinion about the possibilities of

prof. Györgyi in leaving for London? Could anybody by any way help him  
here in the US to come out from Hungary for the Fine of the Symposium?

We should be very much obliged if You would send us reports from the  
recent works in Your laboratory.

It's to our present plan, in the first time we want to divide our time between  
English lessons and the library and to try to "read in" ourselves again  
into science, the world which seems far us - after the tragic occurrences  
in our Homeland's and ourselves' life - to be a little far.

Finally, I must beg Your pardon for disturbing You with such an  
extensive and long letter and a lot of questions. I was encouraged  
to it only by Your very kind letter.

Sincerely Yours

Alexander Toman  
Peter Lengyel